

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 19827 041839Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W  
-----052777 041844Z /46

R 021611Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8940  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 19827

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BBAK, IT  
SUBJ: COMMISSIONARIA INTERNAZIONALE

REF : (A) STATE 276716  
(B) ROME 19042

1. EMBOFF INTERVIEWED MR. TAWFIK (AKA TOUFIC) SOUSSA IN CONNECTION WITH REFTTEL(A). SOUSSE, A LEBANESE FROM BEIRUT WHO SAID HE HAS BEEN LIVING IN ROME SINCE 1961, STATED THAT HE AND HIS ITALIAN PARTNERS (WHOM HE DID NOT IDENTIFY) HAD REGISTERED AN IMPORT-EXPORT COMPANY NAMED COMMISSIONARIA INTERNAZIONALE IN FEBRUARY 1975 BUT THAT ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO HE HAD BECOME AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANOTHER COMPANY OF THIS NAME. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT HIS FIRM HAD NEVER BEEN ACTIVE ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED USING LETTER HEAD PRINTED WITH THIS NAME. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE INTENDS TO DISSOLVE THIS COMPANY BY END OF 1977. WHEN ASKED ABOUT HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, SOUSSA STATED HE HAS CONTACTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (SAUDI ARABIA WAS MENTIONED) DATING BACK TO HIS BEIRUT DAYS, THAT CAN PROVIDE FINANCING AND CREDIT FACILITIES, HINTING THAT SUCH FUNDS ARE PROBABLY MIDDLE EAST "OIL MONEY". SOUSSA, THOUGH PLEASANT ENOUGH, CIRCUMVENTED QUESTIONS AND WAS RETICENT TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL INFORMATION OR PROVE FOUNDATION OF HIS CLAIMS.

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2. AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST, AMCONSUL TURIN CONTACTED FIAT IN THAT CITY TO INQUIRE ABOUT COMMISSIONARIA INTERNAZIONALE S.P.A., THE FIAT ASSOCIATE. OFFICIAL OF TURIN FIRM SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF EXISTENCE OF FIRM OF SAME NAME IN ROME WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY A FORMER ITALIAN EMPLOYEE OF FIAT AND FOR THIS REASON HE THOUGHT CHOICE OF IDENTICAL TITLES WAS NOT ACCIDENTAL THOUGH HE KNEW OF NO SERIOUS MISREPRESENTATION BY OTHER FIRM.

IT HAD, HOWEVER, CREATED PROBLEMS FOR FIAT'S ASSOCIATE AND  
FOR THIS REASON COMMISSIONARIA INTERNAZIONALE S.P.A. WAS CON-  
TEMPLATING CHANGE OF NAME.

3. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED CREDIT AGENCY AND BANKING REPORTS  
ON SOUSSA'S FIRM AND WILL REPORT OUTCOME OF THESE INQUIRIES  
AS SOON AS RECEIVED.GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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